<u>Listing of the Claims</u>

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (currently amended) A method of image processing on a computer, comprising the steps of:

(i)   importing a digital image of an article, the image further including a representation of a reference object having a predetermined colour;

(ii)   colour-correcting the digital image on the basis of the reference object so as to generate a true-colour digital image;

(iii)   selecting at least a portion of the true-colour digital image containing a representation of the article;

(iv)   determining true-colour attributes of pixels within the selected portion of the true-colour digital image;

(v)   generating a second digital image corresponding to the selected portion of the true-colour digital image, but replacing true-colour attributes of each pixel with colour attributes selected from a database of predetermined colour attributes, for each pixel selecting predetermined colour attributes from the database closest to the true-colour attributes as determined by a predetermined algorithm; and

(vi)   generating a third digital image corresponding to the second digital image, but replacing the colour attributes selected from the database for each pixel with mutually distinguishable false-colour attributes so as to form a contour image clearly distinguishing respective sets of pixels sharing the same predetermined colour attributes;

<u>wherein the article is a tooth, the database is a database of ceramics colours or the like used for manufacturing dental prostheses, and the third digital image is a template for manufacturing a dental prosthesis.</u>

2.   (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the database of predetermined colour attributes contains fewer discrete colour attributes than are present in the true-colour digital image.

3.   (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined algorithm in step (v) is an octree quantisation algorithm.

4.   (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the third digital image in step (vi) is generated by determining a range key value for each pixel in the second digital image and then representing this range key value at corresponding pixels in the third digital image with mutually distinguishable colour attributes on a pixel-by-pixel basis.

5.   (original) A method according to claim 4, wherein the range key value for each pixel in the second digital image is determined by dividing a red component value by 16 and determining an integer part thereof, dividing a green component value by 16 and determining an integer part thereof and dividing a blue component value by 16 and determining an integer part thereof.

6.   (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the second and third digital images are displayed together on a visual display unit.

7.   (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the second and third digital images are displayed together on a colour printout.

8.   (cancelled).

9.   (currently amended) An image processing system, the system comprising a computer and:

   (i)   means for importing a digital image of an article, the image further including a representation of a reference object having a predetermined colour;

(ii)   means for colour-correcting the digital image on the basis of the reference object so as to generate a true-colour digital image;

(iii)   means for selecting at least a portion of the true-colour digital image containing a representation of the article;

(iv)   means for determining true-colour attributes of pixels within the selected portion of the true-colour digital image;

(v)   means for generating a second digital image corresponding to the selected portion of the true-colour digital image, but replacing true-colour attributes of each pixel with colour attributes selected from a database of predetermined colour attributes, for each pixel selecting predetermined colour attributes from the database closest to the true-colour attributes as determined by a predetermined algorithm; and

(vi)   means for generating a third digital image corresponding to the second digital image, but replacing the colour attributes selected from the database for each pixel with mutually distinguishable false-colour attributes so as to form a contour image clearly distinguishing respective sets of pixels sharing the same predetermined colour attributes;

wherein the article is a tooth, the database is a database of ceramics colours or the like used for manufacturing dental prostheses, and the third digital image is a template for manufacturing a dental prosthesis.

10.   (original) A system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the database of predetermined colour attributes contains fewer discrete colour attributes than are present in the true-colour digital image.

11.   (previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the predetermined algorithm in step (v) is an octree quantisation algorithm.

12.   (previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the third digital image in step (vi) is generated by determining a range key value for each pixel in the

second digital image and then representing this range key value at corresponding pixels in the third digital image with mutually distinguishable colour attributes on a pixel-by-pixel basis.
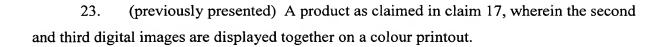
13.   (original) A system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the range key value for each pixel in the second digital image is determined by dividing a red component value by 16 and determining an integer part thereof, dividing a green component value by 16 and determining an integer part thereof and dividing a blue component value by 16 and determining an integer part thereof.

14.   (previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the second and third digital images are displayed together on a visual display unit.

15.   (previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the second and third digital images are displayed together on a colour printout.

16.   (cancelled).

17.   (currently amended) A computer program product for processing an image, the computer program product being operable, when installed on a computer, to:
(i)   import a digital image of an article, the image further including a representation of a reference object having a predetermined colour;
(ii)   colour-correct the digital image on the basis of the reference object so as to generate a true-colour digital image;
(iii)   select at least a portion of the true-colour digital image containing a representation of the article;
(iv)   determine true-colour attributes of pixels within the selected portion of the true-colour digital image;
(v)   generate a second digital image corresponding to the selected portion of the true-colour digital image, but replacing true-colour attributes of each pixel with colour attributes selected from a database of predetermined colour attributes, for each pixel selecting predetermined colour attributes from the

database closest to the true-colour attributes as determined by a predetermined algorithm; and

(vi)   generate a third digital image corresponding to the second digital image, but replacing the colour attributes selected from the database for each pixel with mutually distinguishable false-colour attributes so as to form a contour image clearly distinguishing respective sets of pixels sharing the same predetermined colour attributes;

wherein the article is a tooth, the database is a database of ceramics colours or the like used for manufacturing dental prostheses, and the third digital image is a template for manufacturing a dental prosthesis.

18.   (original) A product as claimed in claim 17, wherein the database of predetermined colour attributes contains fewer discrete colour attributes than are present in the true-colour digital image.

19.   (previously presented) A product as claimed in claim 17, wherein the predetermined algorithm in step (v) is an octree quantisation algorithm.

20.   (previously presented) A product as claimed in claim 17, wherein the third digital image in step (vi) is generated by determining a range key value for each pixel in the second digital image and then representing this range key value at corresponding pixels in the third digital image with mutually distinguishable colour attributes on a pixel-by-pixel basis.

21.   (original) A product as claimed in claim 20, wherein the range key value for each pixel in the second digital image is determined by dividing a red component value by 16 and determining an integer part thereof, dividing a green component value by 16 and determining an integer part thereof and dividing a blue component value by 16 and determining an integer part thereof.

22.   (previously presented) A product as claimed in claim 17, wherein the second and third digital images are displayed together on a visual display unit.

23.   (previously presented) A product as claimed in claim 17, wherein the second and third digital images are displayed together on a colour printout.

24.   (cancelled).

25.   (canceled)

26.   (canceled)

27.   (canceled)